



State of Louisiana
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF STATE MAIL OPERATIONS

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Information Notice 02-03
New USPS Rates and Processing Requirements

June 14, 2002

Effective June 30, 2002, the United States Postal Service's postage rates (and other fees) will change. A chart below compares the new rates with the old.

Rate	Old	New
Letter – full rate	\$0.34	\$0.37
Letter – 1 st Class Auto		
Presort	0.322	0.352
3 digit	0.269	0.292
5 digit	0.255	0.278
Flats – 1 st Class		
Presorted 1 oz.	0.450	0.490
2 oz.	0.372	0.407
3 oz.	0.552	0.577
4 oz.	0.736	0.761
5 oz.	0.966	0.986
6 oz.	1.196	1.211
7 oz.	1.426	1.436
8 oz.	1.656	1.661
9 oz.	1.886	1.886
10 oz.	2.116	2.111
11 oz.	2.346	2.336
12 oz.	2.576	2.561
13 oz.	2.806	2.786
14 oz.	3.036	3.011
Standard Mail, letter size		
5 digit	0.177	0.190
Certified	2.10	2.30
Return Receipt	1.50	1.75

Also, a new \$0.12 surcharge will be added to any mail that cannot be run on the USPS' automation equipment. That means, for example, that a one-ounce piece of non-automation, letter-sized mail closed with a staple will cost you \$0.49 to mail instead of \$0.37. Folded paper that is not tabbed shut will incur the same penalty. In addition, we suspect that flats closed by the clasps or strings will also be penalized. Twenty-pound copy machine paper folded in half, even if it is tabbed closed with two tabs, will also be penalized because it does not meet the minimum thickness requirement.

We have received notice that the USPS intends to change move update and address matching requirements. Essentially, all classes of automation mail (First Class, Periodicals, Standard Mail and Package Services) will be required to be processed by software that is 90 days old or less, and the addresses matched against move-update software no longer than 90 days before mailing. This change will most likely have the greatest impact on those of you mailing newsletters and periodicals.